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# MP urges Interpol inquiry after CIA revelations

By DAVID PALLISTER

The Home Secretary has been asked to set up an inquiry into the London bureau of Interpol following official criticisms of Interpol's operations in the United States and the revelation of CIA involvement in the organisation's affairs.

Mr Bryan Gould, the Labour MP for Southampton Test, who has called for the inquiry, has also tabled a series of parliamentary questions.

Interpol's activities in America have been scrutinised by two Congressional hearings and in a report from the General Accounting Office, the auditing body of the Congress. They followed allegations of invasion of privacy, the spreading of false or unsubstantiated information

about individuals and the violation of human rights.

The GAO report, which was published in January, found no examples of specific abuses. But it did take the US Government to task for not providing adequate safeguards against potential misuse of information. "There is no absolute control over the distribution of information disseminated abroad through Interpol or US law enforcement agencies," it said.

From a sample of 110 inquiries made to the US bureau, the report said that almost half did not give sufficient data on why the request was made, the type of criminal activity being investigated and whether the suspect concerned had been arrested or not. Most requests

for information involved people with no criminal records.

The GAO investigators were particularly concerned about unnecessary information on American citizens being provided, without any checks, to Interpol bureaux in totalitarian countries, both fascist and communist.

Interpol's links with the CIA were at first denied by Mr Louis B Simms, the US bureau chief, when he gave evidence to a Senate appropriations subcommittee in May 1975. "They (the CIA) are an intelligence agency," he testified. "Therefore, our paths do not cross because we are not an intelligence agency."

But the GAO report shows that between 1972 and 1974 a narcotics intelligence group was set up at Interpol's headquarters at St Cloud, near Paris, with the help of the CIA and the Treasury Department.

The idea for the special group came from the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control, headed by Mr Egl Krogh. In 1973 Mr Krogh, the former chief of the Nixon White House "plumbers" unit, was convicted for violating the civil rights of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Under the Freedom of information Act, it was disclosed last year that the CIA had 11 documents concerning the agency's relations with Interpol. The details remain classified but the CIA admitted that they contained "deliberations regarding means by which Interpol collects intelligence abroad and describes intelligence sources and methods."

The requests under the Act were filed by the National Commission on Law Enforcement, whose research into Interpol was instrumental in sparking off the Congressional investigations. Founded by the Church of Scientology, the commission has been active in examining the history of Interpol during the war, when it was based in Berlin, and in showing how former Nazis held important posts after the reorganisation in 1946.

In London, the bureau is accommodated at Scotland Yard's headquarters with a staff of 32. The British Government contributes £96,000 to its finances through the police vote. The bureau chief is nominally Mr Jock Wilson, Assistant Commissioner (Crime).

Scotland Yard officials are anxious to minimise its role, describing it simply as a post office for information on criminal matters.

It is not clear, for example, whether London Interpol has access to Special Branch files or whether information on terrorists or terrorist suspects is regarded as political or criminal.

# Committee May Probe Interpol Use of Files, Ex-Nazi Connections

by Peter Holden

Top ex-Nazis, leaders of the German Gestapo and the Nazi SS, have held key jobs in Interpol as recently as 1973.

Interpol, pictured as a master sleuth of international organized crime, is actually not a detective agency but a kind of super-sophisticated electronic intelligence network linking some 120 member nations — including the U.S. — that cooperates in tracking down persons wanted by police.

Interpol today regularly receives confidential information on U.S. citizens from U.S. law enforcement agencies.

U.S. State Department documents about Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization) — declassified earlier this year — reveal that:

- Interpol's president from 1968 to 1971 (and German representative until 1973) was Paul Dickopf, who until he fled Germany before the end of the war, was SS officer 337259. Dickopf died Sept. 19, 1973. Contrary to Interpol testimony before Congress that the agency closed down

during World War II, Interpol — founded in Vienna in 1923 — was taken over by the Third Reich in 1938, and functioned throughout the war as part of its intelligence and police apparatus. Its presidents during these years were Reinhard Heydrich, head of the SS intelligence service, and Dr. Ernst Kaltenbrunner, a Gestapo chief who was later hanged at Nuremberg for war crimes.

- Interpol's war-time headquarters in Wannsee, just outside Berlin, hosted a conference, called by Heydrich in June 1942, for 15 top Nazis where the "final solution to the Jewish problem" — mass execution — was worked out.

- Interpol was reconstituted, after the war, by F. E. Louwage, who served on the Nazi Interpol staff under Kaltenbrunner and headed Hitler's Belgium political police. Louwage served as Interpol president from 1948 to 1950, running the office on funds left over from wartime Interpol activities.

Today, Interpol — recognized by the United Nations as a legitimate, though, private, intergovernmental organization — receives direct funding from the U.S. Treasury Department and has its U.S. offices in the Treasury Building. Its present director Louis Sims is on loan to the agency from the Secret Service.

Treasury Department officials claim Interpol — with its electronic communications linkups to police agencies in some 120 foreign nations — is a valuable mechanism for tracking down international criminal suspects.

But members of Sen. Joseph Montoya's Subcommittee on Treasury Appropriations — which funds Interpol — are worried about the agency's Nazi connections, revealed in hearings last March when a private citizens criminal presented the declassified State Department documents.

The Subcommittee's other major concern is Interpol's apparently unlimited access to top-secret files on American citizens, which it then passes to foreign agencies.

The Subcommittee plans new hearings on Interpol within the next four weeks.

Since 1947 Interpol, either directly or through the Treasury Department, has regularly received information on U.S. citizens from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies — from the Secret Service, the IRS, Customs, Drug Enforcement Agency and the FBI down to local police departments.

Interpol also has access to the FBI's vast National Crime Information Center — the biggest crime data bank in the U.S.

No guidelines exist limiting the kind of information U.S. agencies can pass on through Interpol to the police and intelligence agencies of foreign countries.

Interpol itself stores copies of all information it transmits to and from member nations in its world headquarters in Paris. In 1972, these central records contained over 1.5 million files on individuals, according to Interpol chief Louis Sims. The same records also contain Hitler's Jewish files, housed at Interpol's Wannsee headquarters and transferred to Paris after the war.

## U.S. Connection

The first post-war U.S. connection to Interpol was made by former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover in 1946, without the knowledge of the U.S. government.

The U.S. had been invited by Louwage to send a delegation to Interpol's 1946 annual convention. Declassified State Department documents reveal that then-Secretary of State Dean Acheson and U.S. Attorney General Tom Clark both recommended against

Hoover, nonetheless, attended the convention secretly, and was elected the agency's vice president. Acheson learned of Hoover's action the next year, when Interpol renewed its invitation to the U.S. and referred to Hoover's role at the 1946 convention and his status as vice president.

At this point, both Acheson and Clark appear to have accepted the FBI membership in Interpol as a fait accompli. Hoover continued on as Interpol's vice president until 1950, when he angrily withdrew the FBI from Interpol after learning that Czechoslovakia, one of its member nations, was using it to track down refugees who had fled to West Germany.

The fate of Interpol's position in the U.S. remained in limbo for the next eight years until it was transferred to the Treasury Department at the request of Myles Ambrose.

Since then, U.S. representatives have included Treasury Department officials Eugene Rossides, who served as vice president from 1969 to 1973, and Edward Morgan, who served as a member of Interpol's Executive Committee until he resigned in January 1974, facing charges of backdating Nixon's tax records.

## Bias Charged

For years, private groups like the World Jewish Congress have repeatedly accused Interpol of refusing to cooperate in any effort to track down Nazi war criminals. In response, the agency cites its charter which prohibits it from pursuing "political prisoners." At the same time, it has justified the preponderance of Jewish names it has on file by the claim in its official publication that "Jewish offenders have a preference for offenses which require the use of craftiness." Critics charge such statements are symptomatic of Interpol's strongly anti-Jewish bias, and its long history as a haven for Nazis and Nazi sympathizers.

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